

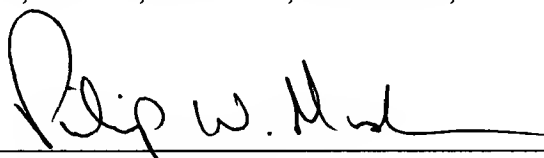
REMARKS

The above amendments have been made to place the application in better condition for examination. Applicant respectfully requests a favorable action on the merits.

Should any questions arise in connection with this amendment or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 703-838-6687 to help expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER, & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: 
Philip W. Marsh
Registration No. 46,061

P. O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
Phone: (703) 836-6620

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Attachment to Amendment dated September 20, 2002

1. (Amended) A method for notifying a computer user of a computer information message, comprising the steps of:

[receiving an action performed on a computer by a user;]

determining if a condition associated with [the] a received action requires generation of an information message;

selecting an information message to be generated corresponding to said condition;

[locating] identifying a target object associated with the action performed by the user, to which the information contained within the notification message relates; and

displaying a notification object, which indicates the target object and contains said information message corresponding to said condition[.], in a persistent manner until dismissed by a user while enabling the user to continue interaction with an application program corresponding to said target.

16. (Amended) The method of claim [15] 1, wherein said notification object enables a user to interact with application programs other than the application program corresponding to said target, while said object is being displayed.

18. (Amended) A system for notifying a computer user of a computer information message, comprising:

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means for receiving an action performed on a computer by a user;

means for determining if the received action requires generation of a computer information message;

means for selecting a computer information message to be generated corresponding to said action performed by the user;

means for locating a target object corresponding to the action performed by the user, to which the information contained within the notification message relates; and

means for displaying a persistent, non-modal notification object which indicates the target object, [and] contains said information message corresponding to said target object, is persistent until dismissed by the user, and enables continued interaction by the user with the target while the object is being displayed.

19. (Amended) A graphical user interface element for providing a user with information regarding a computer application being executed, comprising a persistent, non-modal notification object containing information relating to a target within said computer application and an indication mechanism which forms part of said object and points to the target with which the computer notification object is associated.

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26. (Amended) A computer program stored in a computer-readable medium which executes the following steps:

receiving an action performed on a computer by a user;

determining if the received action requires generation of an information message;

selecting an information message to be generated corresponding to said action performed by the user;

locating a target object corresponding to the action performed by the user, to which the information contained within the [notification] information message relates; and

displaying a notification object which indicates the target and contains said information message corresponding to said target object[.];

wherein said displayed notification object is persistent until dismissed by the user;
and

wherein said notification object is non-modal and enables the user to continue interaction with an application program corresponding to said target while said object is being displayed.